



WALES Men did indeed grab the Bronze Medal in Sweden beating Holland in the 3rd – 4th playoff. After slipping out of the top four last year for the first time in 12 years, Wales confirmed their place in the elite group after beating Spain 3/1 in the final men's qualifying round in the European Team Championships in Malmo.

A record-equalling 27 countries are competing in the 37th men's European Squash Federation championship being staged in the Swedish city for the first time - together with a record 21 nations in action in the 32nd staging of the women's ESF tournament.

Fifth seeds Wales boosted their chance of a semi-final place on the opening day in Pool A after drawing with fourth seeds Germany (but gaining an 8/7 games advantage) - then clinched their promotion after overcoming eighth seeds Spain. It was veteran campaigner Alex Gough - the now retired former world No5 competing in his 19th championships since 1990 - who confirmed the victory with an 11-0, 11-8, 11-5 win over Spaniard Diego Lopez De Mota Ibanez.



Wales finished in second place in the pool, behind **England**. The top seeds and defending champions recorded their third successive 4/0 win - convincingly beating Germany, with only Adrian Grant dropping a game in the world No11's 11-5, 10-12, 11-2, 11-8 defeat of Jens Schoor.

The Mens Team

David Evans, Alex Gough, Rob Sutherland, Jethro Binns, Peter Creed, Nick Birt

Coach – Chris Robertson

Fact - 14th European Team medal won by Wales in all ages since 1997 and there are still 2 events to go this season. Remember Wales have a **world Silver medal won in 1999**.

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|-------------|---|---|-------|---|---|--------------|------------------|-------|-------------------------|
| Netherlands |  | 2 | Wales |  | 2 | Belle Vue C1 | Sat 2nd May 2009 | 14.00 | Wales WON 10-7 on Games |
|-------------|---|---|-------|---|---|--------------|------------------|-------|-------------------------|



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|------------------------|--|---|--------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|------|
| {1} Dylan Bennett | | 1 | {2} Rob Sutherland | | 3 | 11-8, 4-11, 2-11, 8-11 {56m} | 1sts |
| {3} Sebastiaan Weenink | | 0 | {4} Jethro Binns | | 3 | 7-11, 6-11, 7-11 {34m} | 3rds |
| {2} Piëdro Schweertman | | 3 | {3} Alex Gough | | 2 | 11-8, 9-11, 11-4, 11-13, 11-4 {56m} | 2nds |
| {4} Rene Mijs | | 3 | {5} Peter Creed | | 2 | 4-11, 13-11, 6-11, 11-6, 11-9 {76m} | 4ths |

The Womens Team

Stacey Preece, Deon Saffrey, Natalie Pritchard, Beth Winstanley

The Ladies team won 11th/12th Play off against Belgium

Women's favourites **England** - title-holders in all previous 31 events since the inaugural championship in 1978 - cruised to a 3/0 win over eighth seeds **Belgium**.

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|--------------|---|---|----------------|---|---|--------------|------------------|-------|-------------------|
| Wales |  | 3 | Belgium |  | 0 | Belle Vue C1 | Sat 2nd May 2009 | 10.00 | 11th/12th playoff |
|--------------|---|---|----------------|---|---|--------------|------------------|-------|-------------------|

But all eyes were fixed on England's rivals **Netherlands**, the second seeds who are due to face the title-holders in the final for the seventh year in a row. Making her debut in the Dutch squad will be former Australian **Natalie Grinham**, the world No4 and highest-ranked player in the event.

However Grinham, who became a Dutch national in February 2008, was rested in her new team's opening tie when Netherlands beat seventh seeds **Wales** 3/0 in Pool B.

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|---------------------------------|------|
| {2} Stacey Preece | | 3 | {2} Annabel Romedenne | | 0 | | 11-7, 11-6, 11-0 {17m} | 2nds |
| {1} Deon Saffery | | 3 | {1} Kim Hannes | | 0 | | 11-6, 11-9, 11-4 {23m} | 1sts |
| {3} Natalie Prichard | | 2 | {3} Yara Delagrange | | 0 | | 11-5, 11-4 {11m} | 3rds |

Well done WALES

More results can be found on www.europeansquash.com